

of the service cannot fail to be very detrimental. The injustice lies not in the number of awards made but in the fact that the awards are made to officers in a number of instances are not in accord with the relative merit of the services performed by them as recommended by the recommendations. Officers who were recommended for the highest awards appear on the list as having been awarded lower awards and vice versa.

"3. This is not necessarily result in serious discontent and a sense of injustice, because there can necessarily be no better judge of the relative merits of the services of a number of officers than the responsible commanding officer of the organization in which they are serving.

Insight Lacked by Board
"4. In fact, it must always be impossible for a board or any other outside authority to modify the estimate of relative merit of the services of officers in an organization, as made by their immediate and active superior in command, without inflicting actual injustice, and this necessarily defeats the whole object of instituting a system of awards for merit in time of war.

"5. As the example of the injustice resulting from a failure to be guided by such recommendations is shown by the action taken upon the citations for awards of the officers of my staff abroad that were made in my letter to the department of November 7, 1919. In explanation of the importance of the services of these officers, I stated as follows: 'Not only were these officers necessarily of secondary importance in comparison with the vital importance of directing all operations, both ashore and afloat, in such manner as to insure the success of the whole. This success was a whole, to each was given the responsibility and authority in his own department essentially to direct and coordinate action, and they exercised this responsibility with practically no direction from me—and to them belongs the credit.'

"6. The nineteen officers recommended in that letter for the Distinguished Service Medal only six were awarded this decoration, and the remainder were awarded the Navy Cross. Not only were the commendations not commensurate with the services of these cases, but—and this is the gist of the matter—a number of officers in the command, whose services were relatively less important and whose responsibility was less, were awarded the highest award.

Error in Judging Service
"8. This seems to be due to an erroneous impression that the relative merits of services ashore and afloat are of equal importance. It is my opinion that duty in the latter positions must necessarily be the least distinguished.

"9. This is so serious a misapprehension that the action of the department in awarding distinctions should be such as to have the effect of clearly impressing upon the officers the relative ability of misapprehension, that the most important duty in time of war is that of planning and directing the military operations of the whole force. It is the function of superior leadership. The vital importance of successful leadership, and the recognition which should follow, have no logical relation to the relative merits of service ashore and afloat, from which such leadership must be exercised.

"10. In this connection it may be well to cite, as an illustration, the case of the officers of the battleship, during the four most critical months of the submarine campaign—that is, from April to August, 1917—I was assisted by but one commissioned officer, who necessarily performed the duties of chief of staff, secretary, aid, communication officer, in one office and all other necessary duties of a staff during that period.

"11. In reports now on file at the department I have stated that this one officer, who was the only one who was with our troops were transported safely to Europe, that he initiated many of the most important tactical and strategic measures governing the operations of our forces in Europe, and that his very responsible services were all of the highest possible importance in assuring our success.

Important Services Overlooked
"12. I accordingly recommended him for the Distinguished Service Medal. The board of officers who recommended the award of the Navy Cross, a number of officers under my command in positions of purely local responsibility, whom I recommended for the Distinguished Service Medal.

"13. There are other instances of a similar nature in the other branches of the service. In the case of the command, whom I recommended for Distinguished Service Medals, in recognition of having borne their heavy responsibilities with conspicuous success, were awarded the lower award of the Navy Cross.

"14. These instances are so typical of the conditions in this respect throughout all branches of the command that further examples are not necessary. But I feel impelled to give attention to a special class of awards which are the subject of such service commendation and indicate the effects upon the present and future morale of the service must necessarily be deplorable to the last degree. The Distinguished Service Medal, awarded to many, if not all, of the officers who were defeated in action or whose ships were sunk or seriously damaged by enemy submarines.

Awards for Failures Opposed
"15. In the case of destroyers or other vessels that were successfully attacked by German submarines, no special distinctions were recommended in my reports. These are typical examples not only of unsuccessful action, but of failure to injure the enemy. The victors in these actions were the German submarines. By reason of the peculiar nature of the submarine warfare, no blame necessarily attaches to the commanding officers of these vessels for their failures, but on no account should they receive a special award for this lack of success.



Admiral Sims

precisely this which has been done in a number of instances.

"18. In my letter of August 18, 1919, I urgently requested that all lists involving any of the officers or enlisted men who were attached to the United States naval forces in European waters be referred to me for comment before they were finally approved and published.

Admiral's Request Ignored
"19. This was in order that I might supply any supplementary information that might be needed in order to establish the relative merit of the services of the officers concerned.

"20. As the noncompliance with this request may be regarded as an injustice, and as I assume that the department must be eager to correct all mistakes or misapprehensions that may have arisen, I request that they be given the opportunity to explain my reasons for the relative order of merit upon which my recommendations were based.

"21. While it would naturally be undesirable to diminish any of the awards already published, it is still within the power of the Navy Department to award medals to recognize the services of distinguished officers who have received awards inferior to those which have been accorded less deserving officers of my late command.

"22. The department has been pleased to award me a Distinguished Service Medal as an expression of its appreciation of the success of the forces under my command, but since the award, as I stated above, and as stated in my letter of November 7, 1919, the success of the forces abroad was chiefly due to the loyal and efficient services of the officers recommended for distinction, and to them belongs the credit—I am necessarily placed in a position which renders it impossible for me to accept this award under the conditions now existing.

Letter to Page
Secretary Daniels' letter to Senator Page, which was written prior to the receipt of the letter from Admiral Sims, is in part as follows:

The principle which governed me in my review of the report of the board, and in the final award of the medals, was that those officers and men who had served in the active war zone, and particularly those who in this service had been in contact with the enemy, should come first in the recognition for their services as shown by these medals.

In doing this, however, care was taken to give the highest recognition to the services rendered by the officers and men in other parts of the navy's activities, such as those in positions of great responsibility on shore duty, etc., should have proper recognition for their services also, but it is my belief that service in the active war zone should have paramount recognition.

"In this connection, it is my opinion that the forces of the navy came in certain general classes, such as the navy transports; the battleships in the North Sea; the mine layers in the North Sea; the mine sweepers in the North Sea; the destroyer forces which protected our naval forces in the war zone; the naval armed guard; the merchant ships; the convoys of merchant ships; the submarines in the war zone; the battleships and ships of other classes on the home stations and in other sections of the world.

The service rendered by these different classes was recognized by the board of awards in assigning certain medals to the officers in command of the ships and stations concerned, and this plan of procedure met my approval.

"In that part of the board's report which was first submitted, however, I was forcibly struck by the fact that on a list of officers recommended for the Distinguished Service Medal there were 68 per cent of these on the home stations and 45 per cent were on home shore stations. The officers who were only 22 per cent of those officers on duty at sea in the war zone.

"This list, therefore, did not meet with my approval, as I do not believe for instance, that the commanding officer of one of the old battleships of very little fighting value engaged, principally, in training men in the Chesapeake Bay, should be rewarded with the same medal as would be given to the commanding officer of one of our most powerful battleships, serving in the North Sea, with the British fleet, ready at any minute to give battle to the enemy.

great responsibility and at the same time in position of grave danger in the active war zone, and the standard which any particular case had to meet for an officer on shore duty to be awarded the medal.

In addition to the recognition to service rendered by the officers and men of the various forces above mentioned, there was also, of course, the cases of particular individuals whose conduct was outstanding and which could be singled out for special recognition. In consideration of these cases it was my opinion that the Distinguished Service Medal should be awarded to those officers in command of ships in the navy which were sunk by enemy attack and whose conduct was meritorious in such cases.

"It was also noted that the board had recommended an officer for only about eight officers and men who were engaged in the duty of naval guards on board merchant ships. As this service was one of great importance and not only involved great hardships but frequent contact with enemy submarines, with which many brilliant engagements were fought, it was my opinion that these services should be more extensively recognized, and I caused a special investigation of this branch of the navy's activities, and as a result of this investigation, two and two Distinguished Service Medals were awarded to officers and men on this duty.

The policy to govern the award of medals for officers engaged on shore duty was given very serious thought and consideration, as, unless great care was exercised and careful distinction was made between service which was of 'great importance' and that which was really of a 'distinguished' nature, we might have the result of the list for shore duty being given the same value for duty at sea in the war zone. The endeavor was made to assign the medals only to those officers who really had performed distinguished service on shore and which was decidedly above the average.

"My judgment is that individual duties ashore are always and necessarily of second importance to duties afloat. There are a few exceptions, as in the instances of service of the highest character.

The navy exists on sea. The only exception to any rule of being on shore at all is that a certain number must perform shore duty in order to furnish supplies and plan for the maintenance and operation of the fleet. It is my opinion that those who place certain shore service as paramount.

"My attitude always has been in marked contrast to the policy of assigning shore duty. I believe the service worthy of the highest distinction is that rendered afloat in the presence of the enemy. It is also true that there are those who in the active war zone, in the character of staff duty even on shore, above command of ships afloat, I emphatically dissent from such view and cannot be governed by it."

Let Sims and Daniels Settle It, Says Butler
Special Correspondence

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—"Congress is not interested in the squabble between Admiral Sims and Secretary Daniels about the distribution of the Distinguished Service Medals. These medals only cost six cents each, so why not give everybody one and let it rest at that."

Such was the comment of Representative Thomas S. Butler, chairman of the House Naval Affairs Committee, in an interview at his home in West Chester to-night.

Admiral Sims Refuses to Discuss Letter to Daniels
NEWPORT, Dec. 23.—"Admiral Sims declined today to discuss in any phase his letter to Secretary Daniels criticizing the reported awards of naval decorations. The fact that such a letter had been written, however, was known to friends of the admiral here.

Wilson's Rail Program Is Mystery to Hines
Director Tells Cabinet He Is Unaware of What President Intends to Do About Return

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—"Walker Hines, Director General of Railroads, was called before the regular meeting of the Cabinet today. He said he had no information relative to what President Wilson intended to do with regard to turning back the railroads to their owners.

The Cabinet was in session less than two hours. Secretary of State Lansing, who presided, said Mr. Hines was summoned for a discussion of the coal situation and that the reports he made on production were encouraging. The railroad question was not discussed, Mr. Lansing said.

Senate and House conferees on railroad reorganization bills held their first meeting today. They will meet again tomorrow and then will adjourn until Monday.

States' Rights Demands May Cut Austria's Power

Little Will Be Left for Central Government if Requests Are Granted

VIENNA, Dec. 23.—The Austrian republic is passing through a "states' rights" crisis very similar to that which marked an earlier stage of the American Republic. Provinces are demanding a high degree of independence from the central government, and in some of them, such as the Tyrol, Upper Austria and Styria, it amounts almost to complete autonomy. If their demands are eventually granted, about the only thing that would be left to the central government would be the foreign relations and the regulations of foreign import and export traffic and limited taxation.

The conservative provincial population—the peasantry and bourgeoisie—look upon Vienna as the seat and source of communism, or the "Reds." Feeling is intense against this city, which at present is virtually unproductive of anything and has 2,500,000 people demanding food, and the provinces refuse to fulfill the contracts made last spring for food supplies.

Supreme Council's Answer to German Note Is Delivered

Hope of Final Peace Before New Year Fades in Spite of Hint That Scapa Flow Demands May Be Shaded

PARIS, Dec. 23.—Paul Dutaasta, secretary of the peace conference, today handed the Allied reply to the German note of December 15 to Kurt von Lersner, head of the Berlin delegation. M. Dutaasta, in accordance with instructions from the supreme council, accompanied the note with an oral communication, in which it is understood he assured von Lersner that the Allies recognized the economic difficulties which might exist in Germany and wished to take them into account.

If proof should be given that errors had been made in the estimate of floating material now in the possession of Germany, upon which the Allies based their demands for reparation for the sinking of the German ships at Scapa Flow, these demands, M. Dutaasta is understood to have said, would be reconsidered. Later in the day, however, the French Foreign Office announced that the Germans had engaged their minds and would not leave Paris.

The announcement that Premier Nitti and Foreign Minister Scialoja of Italy are ready to come from Rome after the Christmas holidays, said Mr. Dutaasta, is an indication that the Turkish problem will be brought under consideration without much delay, the precise date depending upon Premier Lloyd George.

It was announced that Premier Venizelos of Greece is taking is also understood to have some connection with the Near East problem.

Winners of London-Australia Flight Are Made Knights
LONDON, Dec. 23.—Knighthood in the Order of the British Empire has been conferred by King George on Captain Ross Smith, the first aviator to complete an airplane flight from England to Australia. Captain Smith's flight, which was made in a biplane, was the first of its kind.

New Cardinal Gets Red Hat
SARAGOSSA, Spain, Dec. 23.—Count Eava, special envoy of the Pope, conferred the red hat on the newly elected Cardinal Soldevilla y Romero.

Chamber Votes Confidence in Clemenceau

Deputies Approve Premier's Regime, 458 to 75, After Listening to Declaration of Program

PARIS, Dec. 23.—The Chamber of Deputies today voted confidence in the government, 458 to 75. The vote, which carried approval of Premier Clemenceau's program, was taken after the Chamber had listened to his declaration on the determination of the Allies to crush Bolshevism, his confidence in the Anglo-Franco-American compact, his prediction of a solution of the Finne problem, and his understanding with Premier Lloyd George of Great Britain.

Boomed for Presidency
Members of Chamber Announce Their Intention to Nominate "Tiger"

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Trotzky to Enlist Chinese in War on Poland in Spring
Orientals Now Being Recruited at Rate of 8,000 a Day, Warsaw Hears; Offer of Peace Is Reported

GENEVA, Dec. 23.—Preparations for a great Bolshevik offensive against Poland next spring are being made by Leon Trotzky, Soviet Minister of War and Marine of Russia according to a Warsaw dispatch received here. Chinese troops who are being recruited at the rate of 8,000 a day and trained in the Soviet military school, will aid in the campaign, it is said.

Recent statements by Trotzky are quoted to the effect that he believes Bolshevism to be "firmly rooted and spreading in China," where a Bolshevik revolution is expected shortly. It is declared that Trotzky intends to use Chinese in carrying out his project of an invasion of Western Europe.

Dutch Cabinet Shaken
Minister of War Resigns When Appropriations Are Refused

THE HAGUE, Dec. 23.—Post-war defense problems, closely allied with the problem of the formation of the league of nations, have brought about a crisis in the Dutch government. Closely following the resignation of Jonkheer Beveland, Minister of Marine, and Jonkheer A. van Goyen, Minister of War, announced his resignation today when the Dutch States General denied the sums available for munitions. The budget provided for an army of the approximate strength of 200,000. While the present government had taken a stand that the world situation was still delicate and necessitated a large army, Socialists members, led by Deputy Mercator, opposed the budget on the theory that the league of nations would end the necessity for large armaments.

White Lays His Arrest To Dansey Boy's Mother

Accused Man Says Woman's Statements at Inquest Caused Detectives to Act

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Dec. 23.—Charles S. White, arrested on the charge of killing Billy Dansey and released yesterday on bail, said today that his arrest was due to stories told by Mrs. Hercules Dansey, mother of Billy, concerning White's movements on the day of her son's disappearance. "Mrs. Dansey testified," White said, "at the inquest of having been near the swamp the day the boy disappeared. On October 8, and on the day the boy's voice. She said I was near the swamp at the time. Later, she said, she had heard cries from the daffin field, where I was with my sister-in-law, Mrs. Susanne White.

"The latter statement was made in the presence of detectives who called at my home and asked me if I had not thrown a stone at Billy and hurt him. Mrs. Jones and myself had not carried the boy into the house for treatment. I told them they were crazy."

When Prosecutor Gaskill was told of the man's statement, he said: "I cannot enter into any discussion of what White says, as it may lead to the development of information that I am not prepared to make public."

My Own Views and Not Wilson's, Asserts Baruch
Brands Report He Spoke for President on Peace Treaty's Status a "Tissue of Lies"

Bernard M. Baruch, one of the financial advisers of the American delegation to the Paris peace conference, in a statement made public yesterday simultaneously in New York and London, declared that the report that he had been speaking for President Wilson in discussing the peace treaty with Senators, he characterized the report as a "tissue of lies." His statement follows:

"My attention has just been called to the article sent out under Washington date-line Sunday last, representing me as having undertaken to define to certain Senators the President's attitude about the peace treaty. That article is a tissue of lies from beginning to end. I have not suggested nor intimated any such thing. I spoke for the President in my particular capacity as a private citizen, speaking my own views only, and endeavoring, in common with millions of my fellow countrymen and women, to set forward the cause of peace and to bring about the ratification of the league of nations, which, in my opinion, will be the greatest agency ever devised for the prevention of future wars.

"I refrain from replying to the vicious personal attacks made upon me by certain newspapers controlled by one man. These attacks are a part only of the sinister and malevolent purpose of a certain coterie in this country which is determined to prevent the ratification of the peace treaty at all hazards. When America entered the war in 1917 I was called, without my seeking, into the service of the country. I immediately gave up all business of every kind and character and devoted myself wholly to the discharge of my public duties. I have not been engaged directly or indirectly in business since."

U. S. Business Men in London Urge Quick Peace
Chamber of Commerce Messages to Lodge and Hitchcock Favor Compromise on Reservations

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The American Chamber of Commerce of London has addressed identical messages to United States Senators Lodge and Hitchcock on the subject of the ratification of the peace treaty.

The American Chamber of Commerce is composed of representatives of all the leading American bankers, merchants and business firms doing business in Great Britain, and also of the leading British shipping, trading and business concerns trading with the United States. The latter, however, have no voting power, the control of the chamber being in the hands of firms incorporated in America and American citizens. The message follows:

"The failure of the United States to ratify the treaty and enter into working arrangements with the Allies is causing our motives for entering the war and our hesitation in going into the reconstruction plans to be misrepresented and misunderstood.

"America owes it to herself, as well as to the world, to come to the help of the disorganized and starving portions of Europe.

"The international machinery started by the peace conference is failing to proceed. All actual progress toward peace is checked, and peace is slowly drifting toward famine and anarchy, which can be remedied only if the United States will decide quickly and firmly on armaments."

Opposition Is Cracking Fast, Lodge Declares

Continued from page 1

talk yesterday with Senator Underwood of Alabama.

Senator Lodge declined to discuss his talk with the Alabama Senator further than to say that they had gone over the situation in the Senate very thoroughly.

Senator Underwood has offered to accept any proposition that will obtain ratification of the treaty, and it is believed that he told Senator Lodge yesterday that many other Democrats also were willing to accept the Lodge reservations if no other way could be found to secure ratification.

Canada Alleges Plot To Overthrow Family
Eight Men on Trial at Winnipeg Accused of Upholding Communist Manifesto

WINNIPEG, Dec. 23.—H. B. Russell, who is being tried on charges of sedition, conspiracy, growing out of a general strike here last May, and several other alleged leaders of the walk-out, under a communist manifesto advocating anarchy, are charged with overthrow of the family in the hope that they might become "the Lenines and Trotskys of Canada," declared crown counsel in summing up to-day.

The crown asserted that the Socialist party of Canada, of which Russell is a member, had published and circulated this manifesto throughout the Dominion. This manifesto, it was charged, urged killing of all national sentiment and the "present bourgeois family system" in order to bring capitalism and "flowering of woman from the pedestal upon which she has been placed."

Counsel for the defense denied that the manifesto advocated severing of family ties.

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A Wise Man's Christmas Thought

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